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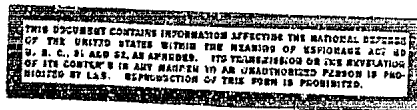
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WEATHER AND CROP CONDITIONS
IN RUMANIA, 8 - 28 JUNE 1952

A number of articles in the June 1952 issues of the chief Rumanian newspapers mention insect and meteorological factors affecting agricultural production. These contain the first mention in the newspapers available in CIA of the effects of the freezing temperatures in May 1952. This is also the first indication in these papers that frost extended to the Danube valley.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

The period of low temperatures which occurred during May 1952 was felt throughout all provinces. Rain and snow in some regions hindered agriculture. In Bucharest Region, for example, workers on the Toporu State Farm were mobilized to fight the frost in late May. Working day and night, they transported 10 tons of manure and great quantities of rush mats to cover crops. In addition, they kept fires burning to raise the temperature in the fields. It is reported that all crops on the state farm were saved by this means.(1) The unfavorable weather necessitated a second planting in some rayons of Ialomita Region, in southeastern Rumania. Workers on state and collective farms, and individual peasants were forced to take measures to combat the damage, and to sow a second time fields in which young plants had been destroyed.(2)

The weather in June, in contrast, was hot and rainy, causing early ripening of crops. Harvesting occurred earlier than usual in Dolj Region, in southwest Rumania.(3) Another article on the same region states that barley and rape harvest began early because of the heat. Wheat was almost mature and was to be cut sooner than usual. Early yields of spinach, onions, lettuce, radishes, and parsley made it possible to exceed the agricultural production plan for June.(4) In Giurgiu Rayon, Bucharest Region, hot rainy weather in June promoted rapid growth of the cotton crop.(5)

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The Ministry of Agriculture issued a communique on 28 June describing the effects of the weather on agricultural conditions. The communique stated that the rains which fell in the latter part of June had a beneficial effect on the development of crops. The soil was provided with necessary humidity. In many parts of the country, however, hard rains formed crusts on the soil. This permitted too rapid evaporation of water. In other sections the great dampness of the ground caused excessive growth of weeds, which, in many parts of the country, threatened to choke young crops. The ministry called for immediate cultivation and hoeing to avoid loss of moisture due to the packing of the soil. Executive committees of people's councils were called upon to destroy weeds and crusts immediately by a second and third cultivation of crops. Special mention was made of possible damage to cotton. Peasants were warned to cultivate deeply and carefully in order not to harm the plants.(6)

Crop damage by insects occurred in some areas. For example, the regional and rayon administrations of Mures Region have employed specialists to combat harmful insects. This year, insects in the area were particularly numerous. The specialists were called upon to save a number of crops. They sprayed lead arsenate and dusted "nitroxan" over an area of 744 hectares of oats attacked by beetles at Buncara. More than 400 hectares of wheat were saved. In addition, 56 hectares of sugar beets infected with black lice were sprayed. Thirteen motor pumps obtained from the USSR were used for the purpose.(7)

Oat beetles caused considerable damage to oats, barley, and heath peas in some areas of Cluj Region. Technicians in Baciu, Vistea, Sanpaul, and Somoseni were unable to combat them successfully. Consequently, the rayon party committees and people's councils mobilized all workers to fight the spread of these crop damaging insects.(8)

In Codasesti Rayon, Iasi Region, collectivists combated an insect which attacks grain spikes. These insects were cleaned from the spikes with special equipment.(6) Caterpillars were reported damaging fruit trees in Valcea Rayon.(9) In Almas Rayon 127,000 trees were sprayed because of the prevalence of caterpillars.(10)

SOURCES

1. Viata Sindicala, 8 Jun 52
2. Romania Libera, 18 Jun 52
3. Ibid., 12 Jun 52
4. Viata Sindicala, 28 Jun 52
5. Viata Capitalei, 28 Jun 52
6. Scanteia, 28 Jun 52
7. Romania Libera, 15 Jun 52
8. Scanteia, 19 Jun 52
9. Ibid., 18 Jun 52
10. Ibid., 14 Jun 52

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